

**University of Calgary
Faculty of Arts
Department of Religious Studies**

**RELS 379 L01: Eastern Religions in the West
FALL 2011 Course outline**

Time: MWF 2:00-2:50 p.m.

Instructor: Christopher Morrison

Contact: cdmorris@ucalgary.ca

Office Hours: F 3:00-4:00p.m. (or by appointment)

Office: SS 1330

Required Textbooks:

Helena Blavatsky. *The Key to Theosophy*. Pasadena: Theosophical University Press, 2002.

Colin Campbell. *The Easternization of the West*. Boulder, CO: Paradigm Publishers, 2007.

Jacob Needleman. *The New Religions*. New York: Penguin Group, 2009.

*****Other course readings will required. Information will be posted on Blackboard.*****

Course Overview:

This course will investigate historical and contemporary issues regarding Western appropriations of Eastern religious traditions and philosophies, and manifestations within Western culture. Our approach will emphasize four general frames of reference to situate our topic: 1) History 2) Critical Theory 3) Art and Literature 4) Comparative Philosophy. At the outset, we will study the crucial history of the "discovery" of Eastern religions (through 19th Century interpretations) and its definitive relationship to the formation of religious studies as a secular university discipline. We will then investigate the theoretical issues that arise when dealing with problems of cultural appropriations or what Said famously calls "Orientalism" as well as subsequent theories that develop out of, and allow us to re-think, Said's work. With the theoretical foundations of the course established, we will consider specific examples of philosophical and literary appropriations with an explicit emphasis on Buddhist, Daoist, and Hindu figurations in the West.

Core Competencies

This course will enable you to: 1) develop skills necessary for close textual readings and analysis of relevant materials 2) develop sensitivities and awareness of cross-cultural issues and begin to think through the philosophical and ethical questions concerning cultural appropriations 3) display adequate understanding of the intellectual histories of the West that help shape the reception of Eastern religious-philosophies 4) develop improved writing skills to better articulate the data/questions/issues extracted from course readings and discussions.

Assignments:

Reading Response #1 (3-5 pages)	15% due Oct. 7 th
Reading Response #2 (3-5 pages)	15% due Nov. 4 th
Option: Mid-term essay OR in-class presentation	25% (essay option) due Nov. 25 th
Final Essay (8-12 pages)	35% due Dec. 21 st
Class Participation/Attendance	10%

*****Late Assignments are deducted 5% per day (including weekends).*****

**There will be no Registrar scheduled final exam for this course.*

Grading

A numerical mark will be given for each course requirement. A letter grade will be assigned on the following number and letter grade scheme:

A+	100 - 96	A	95.9 - 90	A-	89.9 - 85
B+	84.9 - 80	B	79.9 - 75	B-	74.9 - 70
C+	69.9 - 65	C	64.9 - 60	C-	59.9 - 55
D+	54.9 - 53	D	52.9-50	F	Under 50

N.B. All written assignments will be graded with regard to both form and content.

Academic Honesty

Plagiarism is not tolerated at the University of Calgary and has serious consequences. Your essays/presentations must be your own work and inadequate referencing may be seen as plagiarism. Please see the relevant sections on Academic Misconduct in the current University Calendar. If you have questions about correct referencing, please consult your instructor.

Academic Accommodation

If you are a student with a disability who requires academic accommodation and you have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre, please contact their office at 403-220-8237. Students who have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre are not eligible for formal academic accommodation. Once registered, please discuss any upcoming tests/examinations with the instructor **two weeks** before the scheduled date.

Gnosis

Gnosis is the Religious Studies Student Club. For membership or more information please email: gnosis@ucalgary.ca or visit <http://www.ucalgary.ca/~gnosis>.

Faculty of Arts Program Advising and Student Information Resources

- Have a question, but not sure where to start? The new Faculty of Arts Program Information Centre (PIC) is your information resource for everything in Arts! Drop in at SS110, call us at 403-220-3580 or email us at artsads@ucalgary.ca. You can also visit the Faculty of Arts website at <http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate> which has detailed information on common academic concerns.
- For program planning and advice, contact the Student Success Centre (formerly the Undergraduate programs Office) at (403) 220-5881 or visit them on the 4th Floor of MacEwan Student Centre.

- For registration (add/drop/swap), paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at (403) 210-ROCK [7625] or visit them at the MacKimmie Library Block.

Lecture/Reading Schedule

- Sept. 12: M- Course introductions
W- Romanticism, New Age, and the East
F- New Age, Modernism, and Post-Modernism
Readings: Needleman, "Introduction" (1-38) "The Hunger For Ideas" (207-224) from *The New Religions*
- Sept. 19: M- Wisdom of the East in 19th Century West: Introduction to Theosophy
W- *The Key to Theosophy*
F- Theosophy (cont'd)
Readings: *The Key to Theosophy* pp. 1-176
- Sept. 26: M- Blavatsky and Theosophy (cont'd).
W- Theosophy (cont'd)
F- Theosophy's Legacies
Readings: *The Key to Theosophy* pp. 177-307
- Oct. 3: M- Exoticizing the Other: Said's *Orientalism*.
W- *Orientalism* (cont'd)
F- Film: Said [**Reading Response #1 due**]
Readings: *Orientalism* "Introduction," and "The Scope of Oreintalism" (on Blackboard) (pp. 6-112)
- Oct. 10: M- Thanksgiving--NO CLASS
W- Hinduism in the West: Vivekanada, Krishnamurti, Maharishi
F- Vivekanada, Krishnamurti, Maharishi (cont'd)
Readings: "Transcendental Meditation" (139-155) and "A note on Krishnamurti" (157-179) from *The New Religions*; internet searches on Hinduism in the West
- Oct. 17: M- Buddhism in the West: Vajrayana
W- Film: Tibetan Book of the Dead
F- Tibet in America
Readings: Needleman "Tibet in America" (181-206), Donald Lopez "The Book" from *Prisoners of Shangri-La* (on Blackboard) (46-85)
- Oct. 24: M- Buddhism in the West: Zen
W- Zen Philosophy meets Western Philosophy
F- Zen (cont'd) and S.G.I.
Readings: Masuzawa, "Buddhism, A World Religion" (121-146); (on Blackboard) Nishitani, "What is Religion?" from *Religion and Nothingness* (on Blackboard); Needleman, "Zen Center" (39-78)
- Oct. 31: M- The Western Dao
W- Daoism (cont'd); Sikhism in the West

F- 3H0; Film: Snatam Kaur on tour[**Reading Response #2 due**]
Readings: Clarke, excerpts from *The Tao of the West* (posted on Blackboard); individual internet searches and articles for 3H0

- Nov. 7: M- International Society for Krishna Consciousness: Hare Krishna Movement
W- ISKCON (cont'd)
F- Remembrance Day: NO CLASS
Readings: *Bhagavad-Gītā As It Is* Chapter Five: "Karma-yoga-- Action in Kṛ ṣ ṇ a Consciousness" pp. 173-197 (posted on Blackboard). Internet searches on ISKCON
- Nov. 14: M- East Heals West: Patanjali and Yoga
W- [**Presentations Begin**] Presentations (topics include: Yoga in the west, Chakras, Reiki, Tai Chi, Qi Gong, Meditation, Crystal Healing, Past-Life Regression, Acupuncture, Chinese Medicine, Ayurvedic Medicine, etc.)
F- Presentations (cont'd)
Readings: individual internet searches on healing topics, Patanjali's *Yoga Sutras* (posted on Blackboard)
- Nov. 21: M- Presentations (cont'd)
W- Presentations (cont'd)
F- Presentations (cont'd) [**Essay Assignment due**]
Readings: TBA
- Nov. 28 M- Campbell's *Easternization of the West*
W- *Easternization of the West*
F- *Easternization of the West*
Readings: Campbell's *Easternization of the West* (1-41, 112-142, 145-183)
- Dec. 5: M- *Easternization of the West* (cont'd)
W- *Easternization of the West* (cont'd)
F- course wrap-up
Readings: Campbell's *Easternization of the West* (319-363)

*****Final Essay due by 4 p.m. either by emailing the essay to me directly or by placing it in the Religious Studies Drop-Box (13th Floor of Social Science) on December 21st*****